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EDITORIAL NOTES

The *Elementary School Teacher* will participate in the enlargement of the School of Education. The school and its publications aim to serve two purposes; the first is to show how practical classroom work can be organized, and the second is to subject all methods and results to careful scientific study. In carrying out the first of these functions the *Elementary School Teacher* will continue to publish articles of a practical type presenting accounts of methods and directing teachers to materials available for classroom use. During the coming year Professor Sargent, who has taken charge of all the work in Manual Training and Art in the School of Education after long and successful experience in these lines in Massachusetts, will write a series of monthly articles on art and constructive work in the grades. These articles will set forth a course of work for each grade for each month and will be sufficiently detailed to be made the basis of regular classroom work. The first of the articles will appear in October. Professor Caldwell who is in general charge of the science work in the School of Education will present in a series of articles a course in nature study. This will include the fundamental elements of botany, zoölogy, physics, and chemistry. It will, in short, present a plan for teaching elementary science at a level where subdivision into separate sciences is not desirable. Professor Davis, of Miami University, will present a series of articles on the teaching of agriculture. The materials for such teaching are now very abundant and can be had for the asking. Professor Davis' articles will direct teachers to these materials. The articles will also summarize the various lines of agricultural education now organized throughout the United States. The first article will appear in November. Other series of articles are in preparation and will be announced later.

The second purpose of the School of Education, that of reducing elementary school work to a subject of scientific study,

will be expressed in articles of the type which Professor Dearborn contributes to this number. The classroom teacher is likely to look upon such scientific studies as foreign to his or her personal interests and obligations. It is the creed of this journal and the institution back of it that the efficient class teacher must attack the problem of teaching in a sound and scientifically justifiable way. One may chance upon good methods of teaching without the pains of scientific study, but one can never hope to be consistently safe and successful until he works out the problem of education systematically and with the best means of investigation which can be devised. There will be, it may be safely assumed, a strong tendency on the part of many teachers to leave uncut the pages of the scientific articles. This will be a mistake and we believe that time will justify our contention that such studies contribute an element to education which is indispensable.

In announcing these policies it is fitting that a word be said with regard to the apparent change in editorial management. The names which should properly be printed in the editorial staff are now so numerous that it has seemed wise to omit the mention of all and indicate the active co-operation of the whole faculty in this journal. Fortunately Professor Mead and Professor Tufts continue in such close organic relation to the school and its publications that nothing will be lost of their efficient and highly appreciated services by the change in the form of announcing their relations to the work. A full announcement of the faculty of the school is given on the page following the table of contents.

The city of Chicago is the first of the large cities of the country to elect a woman to the office of superintendent of schools.

**A Woman
as City
Superinten-
dent** There are some who are doubtful as to the ability of a woman to carry on the functions of this exacting office. The physical strain is great and the conventional requirements of business life, it is said, will make it difficult for a woman to meet all of those with whom the office of public school superintendent must deal. To those who are interested in an impersonal way in the strictly scientific

testing of these objections to a woman superintendent, it will be a matter of satisfaction that the experiment is being undertaken under the most favorable conditions. Mrs. Ella Flagg Young who was elected to the Chicago superintendency in the closing days of July is perfectly familiar with the needs of the system of which she takes charge. She is recognized by common consent as the best qualified educational authority in the system; and she has the high respect and good will of the teachers, officials, and members of the Board of Education.

There are, however, others than the strictly impersonal observers who look with satisfaction on this move. Mrs. Young has long stood for education as a vital form of social activity not to be confused with city politics. She has been a fearless advocate of needed reform. She is a practical teacher who has so formulated her experiences as to be in the best sense a master of theory. Those who are interested in making education a profession see in her selection to this position a sign of gratifying advance.

Finally, Mrs. Young carries with her into office the warmest personal sympathy of all who have labored with her as colleagues.

The editors of this journal take the keenest delight in seeing one whom they have never ceased to regard as an intimate co-worker elevated to a position where the broadest application can be given to principles which have been matters of common advocacy and devotion.

The experiment of putting a trained woman, amply qualified, into a most important administrative position in the public schools is well launched. We need indulge in no prophecies; it is appropriate however to express the present feeling which is shared by all, the feeling of complete confidence in the favorable issue of the experiment.